

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03090 191822Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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UNCLAS LISBON 3090

PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS, ERS, OGSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FARMERS, VISEU, PORTUGAL

APRIL 15-17, 1977

1. INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FARMERS (ENCONTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURES) CONCLUDED THREE-DAY CONFERENCE APRIL 17 WITH SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING PORTUGAL'S BID FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS THE CONSERVATIVE FARM POLICY LINE ENDORSED BY THE ORGANIZING BODY, THE CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE FARMERS, KNOWN BY LOCAL ACRONYM: CAP. CAP IS VOICE MAINLY OF INDEPENDENT SMALL FARMERS IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL OUTSIDE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL INTERVENTION ZONE IN WHICH, SINCE 1974 REVOLUTION, FORMER LARGE FARMS, ESTATES, AND HUNTING PRESERVES HAVE BEEN EXPROPRIATED TO FORM COLLECTIVE FARMING UNITS AND COOPERATIVES.

2. CAP REPORTED PARTICIPATION OF 13 FOREIGN FARM

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PAGE 02 LISBON 03090 191822Z

ORGANIZATIONS FROM SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, HOLLAND, GREECE, AND SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE (CEA), INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FARM PRODUCTS (IFPA), AND PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMISSION OF THE EC. SOME 300 PERSONS ATTENDED.

3. PRESIDENT SCHLIGEMANN OF CEA SAID ITS 500 MEMBER

ASSOCIATIONS ARE PREPARED TO COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH PORTUGUESE TO ACHIEVE THEIR INTEGRATION INTO CE. FRENCH RICE GROWERS SYNDICATE SENT MESSAGE, HOWEVER, WARNING THAT PORTUGAL MUST ADAPT ITSELF TO CE AGRICULTURAL PATTERN OR WAIT UNTIL CE COMES AROUND TO PORTUGUESE STYLE -- QUOTE AND THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE UNQUOTE. ASSEMBLY APPROVED MOTION CO-SPONSORED BY CAP AND SPANISH AND GREEK ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSING ANY OBSTACLE TO COMPLETE ACCESS TO EUROPEAN ECONOMY.

4. ENG. TOMAS CORREIA, PRESIDENT OF CAP, SAID CONCLUSIONS WITH RESPECT TO AGRARIAN REFORM IN PORTUGAL WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT WITH VIEW TO PAVING WAY TO CE MEMBERSHIP. LEGISLATION TO PERMIT PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE IS INDISPENSABLE, SAID ONE RESOLUTION. WITHOUT CHALLENGING AGRARIAN REFORM AS SUCH, PARTICIPANTS AGREED IT MUST BE PLANNED AND CONDUCTED BY COMPETENT, HONEST, AND IMPARTIAL PEOPLE. THEY EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF RESTRUCTURING LAND PATTERN BY DIVIDING IT UP (AS OPPOSED, APPARENTLY, TO LARGE COLLECTIVE FARMS) AND INDEMNIFYING FORMER OWNERS WHOSE GOODS AND PROPERTY WERE EXPROPRIATED BY AND FOR LANDLESS WORKERS. THEY SAID NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF CULTIVABLE LAND WAS OCCUPIED ILLEGALLY, AT TIMES THROUGH USE OF FORCE AND KIDNAPING, AND ONE RESULT WAS REDUCTION OF BEEF CATTLE NUMBERS BY 34 PERCENT, SWINE 47 PERCENT, SHEEP 48 PERCENT, AND HORSES BY 70 PERCENT. AMONG OTHERS, THEY CHARGED, WERE IMPOVERISHED SOIL, REMOVAL OF TECHNICIANS AND COMPETENT FARMERS, DESTRUC-

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PAGE 03 LISBON 03090 191822Z

TION OF EQUIPMENT, AND DECLINE OF NORMAL WORK RELATIONS.

5. AT LEAST ONE LEFTIST ORGANIZATION -- SMALL AND MEDIUM FARMERS LEAGUE OF BEJA, IN HEART OF INTERVENTION ZONE -- RELEASED STATEMENT CHARGING THAT CAP DOES NOT REPRESENT QUOTE REAL FARMERS UNQUOTE. IT SAID LEAGUE WAS QUOTE ALERTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO THE FRAUD OF WHICH THEY ARE VICTIMS UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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